

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18

INTRODUCED BY L. MOSS

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO ASSIST MONTANA YOUTH IN AN ELECTION TO DESIGNATE THE OFFICIAL STATE DOG AND REQUESTING THAT A BILL DESIGNATING THE STUDENTS' PREFERENCE BE REQUESTED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 62ND LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

WHEREAS, dogs have contributed to the quality of life in Montana since long before Montana was a state; and

WHEREAS, hearty dogs pulled travois loaded with Plains Indians' belongings across this Big Sky state; and

WHEREAS, loyal Seaman helped guide the Lewis and Clark expedition through Montana; and

WHEREAS, a monument was erected honoring "forever faithful" Shep who kept a vigil at the Fort Benton train station for 5 1/2 years; and

WHEREAS, independent Bruno left his job as a sheepdog to run with the trains to and from Bozeman; and

WHEREAS, Dogs for Defense established the War Dog Reception and Training Center at Camp Rimini for training sled and pack dogs to support the 10th Mountain Infantry during World War II; and

WHEREAS, the Auditor was a beloved dog who would show up when least expected in the Butte mines; and

WHEREAS, dogs work on Montana farms and ranches; and

WHEREAS, dogs assist law enforcement through activities such as tracking, apprehension, and detecting drugs and bombs; and

WHEREAS, dogs help people as service animals, therapy animals, thera-pets, and companion animals; and

WHEREAS, dogs serve as friends and pets to Montana families and Montanans; and

WHEREAS, dogs serve as mascots to 13 high schools throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, the importance of dogs in Montana life is reflected in artwork throughout the Montana State Capitol Building and is documented in the state's historical records; and

1 WHEREAS, in 1982, Montana's school children got a lesson in how government works by being given
2 the opportunity to vote on an official state animal through campaigns and primary and general elections, assisted
3 by the Secretary of State; and

4 WHEREAS, more than 55,000 students in 425 schools participated, and the 1983 Legislature recognized
5 their preference with legislation designating the grizzly bear as the official state animal; and

6 WHEREAS, the official state dog should be chosen by Montana's youth through a similar educational
7 process.

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9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
10 STATE OF MONTANA:

11 That Montana's Secretary of State be requested to assist the state's youth in conducting an election to
12 designate an official state dog.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that once the students' preference for a state dog has been determined,
14 a bill establishing the dog as the state's official state dog be requested for introduction in the 62nd Legislative
15 Session.

16 - END -